Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Notice of Comment Period and Public Hearing Concerning the Proposed Issuance of a Construction Permit/PSD Approval to Ameren Energy Resources Generating Company in Canton

Ameren Energy Resources Generating Company, 1901 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, has applied for an air pollution control construction permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) to make alterations to the boiler, turbine and ancillary equipment at its coal-fired power plant located at 17751 North Cilco Road near Canton. The alterations would increase the steam production capability of the boiler so the associated steam turbine-generator can be consistently operated at its capacity, 440 MW. The project would include the installation of a new electrostatic precipitator and additional catalyst in the selective catalytic reduction system. The boiler would also be served by a new scrubber for control of SO_2 emissions, which was recently approved under a separate construction permit.

The Illinois EPA has made a preliminary determination to issue a permit for the project and has prepared a draft permit for review. The Illinois EPA is holding a public comment period and a hearing to accept comments from the public on the proposed issuance of a permit for this project, prior to making a final decision on the application.

The Illinois EPA Bureau of Air will hold a public hearing on January 10, 2007 at 7:00 pm in the Canton High School Auditorium, 1001 North Main in Canton. The hearing will be held to receive comments and answer questions from the public prior to making a final decision concerning the application. The hearing will be held under the Illinois EPA's "Procedures for Permit and Closure Plans," 35 IAC 166, Subpart A. Lengthy comments and questions should be submitted in writing. Requests for interpreters (including sign language) must be made by December 26, 2006. Any questions about hearing procedures or requests to address special needs should be made to the Illinois EPA, Hearing Officer, Re: Ameren - Canton, 1021 N. Grand Ave. E., P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276, 217/782-5544.

Written comments must sent to the Hearing Officer and be postmarked by midnight, January 25, 2007, unless otherwise specified by the Hearing Officer. Written comments need not be notarized.

Persons wanting more information may obtain copies of the draft permit, and project summary at www.epa.gov/region5/air/permits/ilonline.htm (please look under All Permit Records, PSD, New). These documents and the application can also be viewed at the Spoon River College Library, 23235 North County 22 in Canton or at the Illinois EPA's offices at 5415 N. University Street, Peoria, 309/693-5461 and 1340 North Ninth St., Springfield, 217/782-7027 (for either Illinois EPA location please call ahead to assure that someone will be available to assist you).

For information or requests about the application or draft permit, please contact:
Brad Frost, Community Relations, Illinois EPA, 1021 N. Grand Ave. E., P.O. Box 19506, Springfield, IL 62794-9506, 217/782-2113 or 217/782-9143 TDD.

The project would be a major modification to the plant for emissions of carbon monoxide (CO) as defined by the federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) rules, 40 CFR 52.21, with future annual potential CO emissions of 3,351 tons and an increase of 1,284 tons. Emissions of other PSD pollutants (e.g., SO2, NOx, and PM) would decrease or not increase signficiantly.

Under the PSD rules, Ameren must use Best Available Control Technology (BACT) to control emissions of CO. Ameren has proposed good combustion practices as BACT for emissions of CO from the boiler. The Illinois EPA's initial review concludes that this will provide BACT.

The air quality analysis for CO submitted by Ameren for this project shows that it will not cause a violation of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. This analysis shows maximum impacts from the project that are below the significant impact levels set by the PSD rules.